

Notice of Allowability

Application No.	Applicant(s)	
10/535,073	LAKESTANI ET AL.	
Examiner	Art Unit	
Megann E. Vaughn	2859	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to amendment filed 8/9/2007.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 12-30.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Dan Gibson on 12/11/2007.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

A) Replace the Abstract filed 5/13/2005 with the following **Examiner amended Abstract:**

The present invention concerns a method and a system for measuring the thermal diffusivity. Said method comprises the steps of: subjecting a surface region of an object to a modulated heating beam (3) while providing a signal (MLS) thereof, the heated spot or area (4) of the surface of the sample (2) having a definitive diameter and a fixed intensity distribution profile; providing a signal (MTS) proportional to the temperature of the heated spot area (4); determining the phase difference between the modulated beam signal (MLS) and the resulting modulated temperature signal (MTS); and using said determined phase difference and the associated frequency to work out the thermal diffusivity value of said object (2).

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments, see Remarks, filed 8/9/2007, with respect to claims 12-30 have been fully considered and are persuasive.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 12-30 are allowed.
5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 12-27 are allowable over the prior art of record because the prior art of record does not teach or disclose a method for measuring the thermal diffusivity of an object said method comprising subjecting a surface region of an object to a modulated laser beam (or modulated beam of a similar heating source) while providing a signal (MLS) thereof, and determining a phase difference or phase shift between the modulated beam signal and the resulting modulated temperature signal (MTS), in combination with the remaining limitations of the claims.

Claims 28-30 are allowable over the prior art of record because the prior art of record does not teach or disclose a system for measuring the thermal diffusivity of an object said system comprising means for modulating said laser or heating beam and means for generating a signal (MLS) corresponding to said modulated laser or heating beam, in combination with the remaining limitations of the claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: **Borden et al (US 6958814)**.
7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Megann E. Vaughn whose telephone number is 571-272-8927. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 am- 5 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dean Reichard can be reached on 571-272-1984. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

MEV
Patent Examiner Art Unit 2859
12/11/2007


GAIL VERBITSKY
PRIMARY EXAMINER